

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. 25X

# INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Afghanistan

DATE DISTR. 3

SUBJECT        Soviet Propaganda

NO. OF PAGES 1

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PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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1. [ ] the War Ministry dislike the Soviets, but [ ]  
25X1 [ ] they are gaining strength in Afghanistan. There are  
25X1 practically no definite indications of organized Communist activi-  
25X1 ties, but [ ] they are doing very well from the standpoint of  
25X1 indirect propaganda. For example, they appear to have made con-  
verts of most of the Afghan officials who went to Moscow in 1958  
on the Trade Agreement Mission. Almost all of them came back say-  
ing the USSR isn't as bad as people think. They are still talking  
about the fact that they saw people going to Mosques in Moscow  
with complete freedom. Afghans are fanatic Mohammedans and when  
they hear from their own people that religion is free in the USSR,  
it is very effective propaganda. The peasants now say, "What great  
difference is there if I am a slave for the King or if I am a  
slave for the Soviet Government?"

2. There was a lot of grumbling against the Morrison Knutson people, most of which [ ] was inspired by the Soviets. Here are the

25X1 most of which [redacted] was inspired by the Soviets. here are the  
25X1 samples: MK paid their people too much money - money can do any-  
25X1 thing, even though it seems impossible [redacted]

25X1 [ ] minor officials of towns near MK projects were accused of taking bribes - large expensive camps were built by MK which would be in ruins within two years because MK did not stay there long enough to use them - electrical, plumbing, and building equipment paid for by the Afghans was left to rot - dams, irrigation canals, and roads were left half completed - even foremen and laborers on MK payroll had cars and plenty of gasoline while Afghan Ministers were forced to use horse-drawn vehicles or bicycles because of rationing of gasoline for their use.

- end -

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